



JENNER HOSKIN

JENNER HOSKIN

The sudden death of Jenner Hoskin at the age of sixty-five came as a great shock to his many friends. He had enjoyed his usual good health up to the time of his death and he was looking forward with special zest to the Annual Meeting of the British Cardiac Society in his old University. These meetings always gave him great pleasure, and his cheery presence will be missed both by his contemporaries and by his junior colleagues.

Born in 1888, the son of a doctor, he was educated at Charterhouse, Trinity College, Cambridge, and the Middlesex Hospital, where he held house appointments. He then joined the R.A.M.C. in the First World War and served with distinction in the Middle East and Africa, taking part in the historic landings at Suvla Bay and being mentioned in despatches. After demobilization he wished to establish himself in consultant practice and he obtained clinical assistantships at the National Heart Hospital, The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, and the West London Hospital, and he was appointed to the honorary staff of Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End. In 1924 he was appointed Assistant Physician to the Royal Free Hospital and although he subsequently joined the staffs of St. Paul's Hospital for Genito-urinary Diseases and the Royal National Throat, Nose, and Ear Hospital, the Free became and always remained his great interest and the centre of his hospital work. At the time of his death he had just completed sixteen years as its Senior Physician and was Chairman of the Medical Committee.

He was elected F.R.C.P. in 1933 and in 1953 he was elected to serve the College as Counsellor. He was a Fellow of many learned societies and in 1948 he was president of the Medical Society of London. He was chief medical adviser to the Pearl Assurance Company and to the Friends Provident and Century Life Office. Beyond his professional sphere he had links with the City which he much appreciated, being a Liveryman of the Skinners' Company and a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards. In 1950 he was Chairman of the Entertainments Committee of the European Congress of Cardiology and the success of this part of the Congress demonstrated to the full his qualities of tact and organization.

Jenner Hoskin's work with Strickland Goodall stimulated his interest in cardiology and he established the Cardiac Department at the Royal Free Hospital but, although his interests in later years were mainly cardiological, he always maintained his hospital practice in general medicine. He contributed some papers and articles on cardiovascular disease to the *British Heart Journal*, the *British Encyclopædia of Medical Practice*, and elsewhere.

Jenner Hoskin never spared himself in his hospital work or in his private practice but his load was lightened by his schoolboy sense of humour which never forsook him even in the dreariest of circumstances. He was a good clinician and combined his technical knowledge of cardiology with an interest in the patient as a whole so that his opinion was much valued for the wise advice he gave to so many patients and doctors. He will long be remembered and respected at the Royal Free for the high standards he set of duty and service to the School and Hospital. He was a great teacher and was popular with many generations of students, with an uncommon knack for knowing and remembering names. One of the last addresses he gave before his death was on the art of practice of medicine at the annual meeting of the past students of the Royal Free. This well expresses his philosophy of practice as a doctor who recognized the importance of cardiological technique and equally the importance of his patients as people. He summarizes what he thought the most important features in the success of a doctor whether in general practice or as a consultant as follows: hard work, humanity, patience, cheerfulness, optimism, and understanding of the patient's psychology, and this was certainly the ideal that he set before himself. In the Cardiac Society we shall remember him for his geniality and kindness, particularly to the younger members, and for the real holiday spirit that he introduced into the annual meetings.

FRANCES GARDNER